

The Director of the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Francis Collins, has also been silent on what, if any, oversight was done on the grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Dr. Fauci has been silent on what, if any, oversight he did.

This is a simple and very important question for the government to answer. In other words, as you heard me say a few minutes ago, the public's business ought to be public. And without that sort of transparency, we don't have accountability, and we are entitled to have accountability on this kind of money.

The more that they deny the U.S. Congress an answer, the more it looks like these bureaucrats don't give a lick about the American people: the people they work for, the people who pay their salary.

Dr. Fauci is all over television and radio. You name it, he is on it. But, apparently, he and his counterparts can't find enough time to answer this very simple question: Did you do any oversight of the taxpayers' money you sent to EcoHealth, money that you knew was going to the communist Chinese Government? If so, please explain; if not, why not?

This should not be a difficult question to answer. Either you did or you didn't, and, either way, the American people deserve an explanation. And if they didn't do any oversight, then how can they confidently say the money wasn't used for gain-of-function research or other bad conduct?

We have lost over 600,000 Americans, and this body has spent trillions of dollars to support our economy and fight the virus. Congress and the American people have an absolute right to know what Dr. Fauci and Dr. Collins did to oversee this money. Enough with the games. Just answer the question.

I understand that the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General is doing an audit of what, if any, oversight was done. They are supposed to be taking a deep dive on the grants, the cooperative arrangements, and other relationships the government had with EcoHealth Alliance.

The audit isn't just focused on what the National Institutes of Health did or didn't do to monitor the grants. The scope also includes what EcoHealth did or didn't do to manage the funds in accordance with Federal requirements. And the scope of that review, at least right now, is from 2014 to 2021.

I expect the inspector general to be aggressive and unrelenting in getting the records, the emails, and the memos; run the transcribed interviews and question everyone up the leadership chain; leave no stone unturned; and make as much as possible public.

If punches are pulled, then this IG audit will be a waste of everybody's time and taxpayers' money. The inspector general has a tremendous responsibility to get this job done right.

DOMESTIC TERRORISM

Madam President, my last point that I want to make, fourth and last point,

I should say, is on a major issue facing our Nation, the issue of domestic terrorism and the threat it brings to our cities and communities across the country.

On June 15 of this year, the National Security Council issued a national strategy for countering domestic terrorism. Although the strategic objectives were very similar to the National Security Council strategy under the Trump administration, I was very concerned to see that the policy took a partisan tone. For example, aside from the commonsense measures to combat crime, such as promoting cooperation between law enforcement agencies, there was an emphasis on promoting gun control and critical race theory in schools.

The Biden administration seems to make these recommendations at every turn. What the report was missing, I found shocking. The report was lacking any strategy to combat anarchist extremism. Specifically, there was no mention of the 500 domestic terrorism investigations that were open throughout the 2020 riots. Those 500 cases amount to about 25 percent of the FBI's current domestic terrorism investigations.

How could the cause of 25 percent of the current FBI caseload not be mentioned?

It is a grave mistake to make an issue like domestic terrorism partisan, even in the slightest. Judging by the report, I am afraid that is exactly what the administration is doing.

It is of critical importance to keep in mind the great bipartisan work that can and should be done to address domestic terrorism of all types—rightwing and leftwing, including an anarchist extremism. We have to work together on diving deeper into serious, apolitical solutions to this issue. It is pretty simple. The American people deserve it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to use a prop during my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF TRACY STONE-MANNING

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I rise today to join my colleagues in opposing the motion to discharge President Biden's nominee to lead the Bureau of Land Management, Tracy Stone-Manning.

Since Ms. Stone-Manning's first hearing in the beginning of June, members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee have gathered copious amounts of information regarding a number of controversies that disqualify her for this important role within our Federal Government.

As has been highlighted today, Ms. Stone-Manning was involved in a tree-spiking plot as a member of the ecoterrorist group Earth First!—a tree-spiking plot.

I have to tell you, I didn't know what tree spiking was until a couple of weeks ago.

Could you imagine taking this nail and driving it into a tree with the hopes it would deter that tree from ever being cut down?

And the concern is, someone that would take a chain saw, cutting through that tree, when they would hit this spike, what would happen?

I, unfortunately, had to take care of more than one chain saw situation in the emergency room. Let me tell you about a chain saw accident. The chain doesn't cut the flesh; it tears the flesh apart. It tears the skin apart, the muscles apart. It grabs the tendon and literally wraps them around the chain saw, usually permanently maiming people.

So could you imagine, if a chain saw hit this spike, what would happen?

Again, I have ran a chain saw before, and I know, as you are running the chain saw and you hit something solid, something hard—a knot—sometimes that chain saw bounces. It bounces back into your body. And that is where most of the accidents occur.

So could you imagine, if that chain saw hit this spike, the chain saw is going to bounce back, going to recoil into the person's body, and turns this spike into a piece of shrapnel?

This Earth First! Ms. Stone was a member of is a radical organization that spanned the late 1980s and early 1990s, during the peak years of what is often referred to as "the wilderness wars." As described by the Wall Street Journal, Earth First! had, at the time, "defined itself"—and I should quote here, "defined itself as the tip of the fanatical spear," and Ms. Stone-Manning was referred to as "an Earth First! spokesperson."

Debating in 1985, the group engaged in a number of protests over the expansion of certain campgrounds and street theater asking people to take oaths to protect the Earth. However, they graduated into violence and ecoterrorist activities, including arson, equipment destruction, and the dangerous practice of tree spiking, which mangles saws and can easily result in the death of loggers.

In 1989, Ms. Stone-Manning was involved in an incident of tree spiking herself. Despite her denial, she was aware of the act being carried out, aided those who were involved, and helped cover it up. She obstructed the investigation and, finally, traded testimony for immunity.

At a time when the Biden administration has declared domestic extremism as one of the biggest threats the United States faces today, how can the President nominate someone with a record like this to lead the Agency that governs one-eighth of the country's landmass? How can this body bring her confirmation vote to the floor?

It is reckless and dripping with hypocrisy.